

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 15-20 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 15, and 19 being independent. By this amendment, claims 3 and 12-14 are cancelled, and claims 1, 2, 4-9, 15-17, and 19 are amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 19 stand rejected as anticipated by, and claims 5, 7, and 9 stand rejected as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,477,504 (Hamlin). Claims 3, 8, and 13 stand rejected as obvious over Hamlin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,631 (Ansell). Claim 6 stands rejected as obvious over Hamlin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,755 (de Ment). Claim 11 and 20 stands rejected as obvious over Hamlin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,975 (Boe). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because these references, either singly or in combination, do not provide for the subject matter of amended independent claims 1, 15, and 19.

Independent claims 1, 15, and 19 recite, in part, “generat[ing] a message that contains information related to [a] target geographic location,” “identify[ing] . . . online users that are located in the target geographic location,” and “sending the message to the identified . . . online users.” In one implementation, for example, a message may be generated that contains a weather forecast for Washington, D.C. The online users that are associated with Washington, D.C. (e.g., are located in Washington, D.C.) are identified and the message with the weather forecast for Washington, D.C. is sent to the identified users.

Applicant submits that Hamlin does not describe or suggest the above recited features of claims 1, 15, and 19 and, accordingly, does not anticipate these claims.

Hamlin describes a system in which a survey is advertised to a group of targeted network users. Hamlin, col. 11, line 51 to col. 13, line 2. A banner ad is placed on a web page to solicit a targeted user’s participation in a particular survey. *See Id.* When the targeted user selects the ad, the survey is sent to him or her. *See Id.* However, Hamlin does not describe or suggest that the banner or survey contains information related to a geographic location. Thus, Hamlin does not describe or suggest generating a message that contains information related to a geographical

Applicant : Barry Appelman et al.  
Serial No. : 09/842,024  
Filed : April 26, 2001  
Page : 8 of 8

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-128001 / Personalization

14

location, identifying online users located in the geographic location, and sending the message to the identified users.

Applicant submits that Ansell, de Ment, and Boe fail to remedy this deficiency of Hamlin.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 15, and 19 are patentable over Hamlin, Ansell, de Ment, and Boe, either singly or in combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent claims 1, 15, and 19 and the claims that depend from them.

Enclosed is a \$630 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee (\$450) and for the surcharge for filing of the Information Disclosure Statement after the mailing date of the first Office Action (\$180). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/9/05



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